



The Big Bend Paisano

The official newspaper
of Big Bend National Park &
Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River
Volume 24, No. 1 Winter 2003



Ruins near the Mariscal Mine

Voices from the Past

Welcome to Big Bend National Park and the Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River! Big Bend is one of the largest and least visited of America's national parks. Over 800,000 acres await your exploration and enjoyment. From an elevation of less than 2,000 feet along the Rio Grande to nearly 8,000 feet in the Chisos Mountains, Big Bend includes massive canyons, vast desert expanses, and the entire Chisos Mountain range. Here, you can explore one of the last remaining wild corners of the United States, and experience unmatched sights, sounds, and solitude.

While enjoying the park's world-class scenery and natural history, make sure that you also take the time to discover some of Big Bend's rich human history. This rugged land has been the backdrop for many distinct cultures and events. Gaze at the faded red pictographs near the Hot Springs, or touch the grinding holes in Boquillas Canyon, and you make a connection with some of Big Bend's earliest native inhabitants.



The adobe ruins and graveyards near Castolon tell the story of early Mexican settlers who persevered to develop a cluster of farming communities along the Rio Grande. Stop by the Sam Nail or Homer Wilson Ranch to experience the remains of what were once working ranch properties. A visit to the Mariscal Mine will open your eyes to the difficult lives of early mercury miners. Glenn Springs, once a tiny village, made headlines in 1916 when it was attacked and burned by Mexican raiders.

These are just a few of the abundant historic sites scattered throughout Big Bend National Park. In this issue of the Big Bend Paisano, we explore some of the people and places that highlight the park's colorful and engaging human history. We also discover how the National Park Service is in a race against time to preserve the memories and legacies of early settlers. For ultimately, the greatest story of Big Bend is not that of canyons, deserts, and scenery, but of people and voices from the past.

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IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Park Rangers are available to provide assistance. Dial 911 or (915) 477-2251

Phones are located at:
visitor centers,
campgrounds,
Camper Stores, and the
Chisos Mountains Lodge.

911

The Big Bend Paisano

Volume 24, No. 1



The Paisano, Spanish for roadrunner, is published by the National Park Service and the Big Bend National History Association for the orientation and education of visitors to Big Bend National Park.

National Park Service

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The National Park Service was established on August 25, 1916. . . "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife. . . and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." As conservation educators, the Division of Interpretation provides guided walks, talks, evening slide programs, workshops, and other educational activities as well as written materials such as this newspaper.



The Big Bend Natural History Association, established in 1956 as a private, non-profit organization, champions the mission of the National Park Service in facilitating popular interpretation of the scenic, scientific, and historic values of Big Bend and encourages research related to those values. The Association conducts seminars and publishes, prints, or otherwise provides books, maps, and interpretive materials on the Big Bend region. Proceeds fund exhibits, films, interpretive programs, seminars, museum activities, and research.

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Superintendent's Welcome

Welcome

Welcome to Big Bend National Park and the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, two unique areas of the U.S. National Park System in the state of Texas. At over 800,000 acres, Big Bend National Park encompasses the largest protected area of the Chihuahuan Desert in the United States. The Chihuahuan Desert is the largest on the North American continent, extending from Old Mexico to New Mexico. The Rio Grande is the major lifeline in this desert and for 1,250 miles along the southern boundary of Texas, it forms the international boundary between the United States and Mexico. One hundred ninety-six miles of this section of the Rio Grande have been designated as the Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River.

Thousands of visitors already know that winter is one of the best times to visit Big Bend. While much of the country is often blanketed with extremes of snow and ice, we revel in Big Bend's perfect weather. Cold nights give way to warm, pleasant days for exploring the desert areas of the park. Winter air masses also bring some of the year's clearest air to this region, rewarding high-country hikers with some of the best panoramic vistas that Big Bend has to offer.

Please join me in exploring the desert, mountains, river canyons, and rich human history that make up Big Bend National Park. May your winter visit be an enjoyable, memorable, and safe one.

Experience your America!

Frank J. Deckert
Frank J. Deckert, Superintendent



Superintendent Deckert

Bienvenidos

Bienvenidos al Parque Nacional Big Bend y el Silvestre y Escénico Río Grande, dos áreas únicas del sistema estadounidense de parques nacionales dentro del estado de Texas. Con un tamaño de más de 800,000 acres, el Parque Nacional Big Bend encuadra el área protegida más grande del desierto Chihuahuense dentro de los Estados Unidos. El desierto Chihuahuense es el más grande de Norte América, extendiendo de México a Nuevo México. El Río Grande es la fuente de vida de este desierto, y sobre 1250 millas sirve como la frontera internacional entre los Estados Unidos y México. Ciento noventa y seis millas de este río son designados como el Silvestre y Escénico Río Grande.

Miles de visitantes ya saben que el invierno es uno de los mejores tiempos para visitar el parque nacional Big Bend. Mientras que la mayoría del país se congela con hielo y nieve, aquí gozamos del tiempo perfecto. Las noches frías ceden a los días agradables, clima perfecto para explorar el desierto. También el cielo invernal es lo mas claro del año y para los caminantes en las montañas se pueden gozar de las mejores vistas panorámicas.

Les pido el favor de unir conmigo en la exploración del desierto, las montañas, los cañones ribereños y la amplia historia humana del parque nacional Big Bend. ¡Espero que su visita invernal sea agradable, memorable y segura!

¡Conoce su América!

Frank J. Deckert
Frank J. Deckert, Superintendente

Volunteer Honor Roll



Each year, volunteers contribute thousands of hours to the National Park Service. A vital supplement to paid staff, volunteers bring special skills, dedication, and fresh approaches to our work in interpretation, visitor protection, maintenance, administration, and resource management.

Join us in thanking the following individuals and organizations who have recently donated 100 or more hours in volunteer service to Big Bend:

Holly Aloï
Barbara and Bill Baldwin
Royann and Royce Brockett
Sharon and Erwin Drabek
Sid Fogel
Ginny and Jim Herrick
Whitney Hibbard
Carol and Bob Huber
Carolyn and LeRoy Kellar
Mark Kirtley

Joan and Jack Lamkin
Maria Lavender
Robin Liu
Steve McAllister
Sharon Metzler
Carol and Bob Schemm
Samantha Schroeder
Shirley Stinson
Diane Stout
Margaret and Hal Waters



Happy Volunteers and Staff on the South Rim



Did You Know...

Park animals are wild. Do not feed or approach any of Big Bend's wildlife. Enjoy animals at a safe distance and allow them to find their own natural sources of food.

Do not remove any natural objects from the park, including rocks, cactus, reptiles, and fossils. Collecting specimens of any kind or defacing park features deprives other visitors. Leave everything as you found it for others to enjoy. If you must collect something, pick up litter!

All bicycles, including mountain bikes, must remain on paved or unpaved roads. They are not allowed on hiking trails or off-road.

Motor vehicles must be licensed and street-legal. All motor vehicles must stay on established roadways open to public travel. Vehicles are not permitted off-road.

It's Up to You...

National parks have been described as the crown jewels of the United States. While enjoying the beauty of Big Bend National Park, please remember that few other nations have parks that can compare to those of the United States. They are something to be proud of. They are something to preserve.

Over 300,000 people come to experience Big Bend's deserts, mountains, and canyons each year. The protection of Big Bend National Park is ultimately in the hands of the people who visit it. Your cooperation with park rules is one way to help ensure the park's survival.

Please, treat **your** park with care.



The Big Bend Natural History Association is a non-profit organization established to support the park's educational and scientific programs. BNHA also publishes and distributes books, maps, guides, newspapers and other materials designed to enhance visitors' enjoyment and understanding of Big Bend National Park.

Big Bend Natural History Association is making a major scheduling change this year. Traditionally, we have our annual membership meeting on the Friday before the park's annual Good Neighbor Day Fiesta in October. This year Fiesta could not be held because of the border closures under the Homeland Security requirements.

As a result, we moved our membership meeting to Friday, January 31, 2003, in order to coordinate with our first seminar of that year, the Pioneer Reunion. We welcome both members and prospective members to our membership meeting, which is free and open to the public. After my financial report to the membership, we'll serve

a catered lunch, followed by an informative interpretive program by park staff. The meeting usually adjourns around 2 pm.

A yearly highlight, the Pioneer Reunion takes place the very next day. Come and celebrate with those who first settled this area before it was a park. We hope to see you at both events.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Mike Boren
Mike Boren, Executive Director



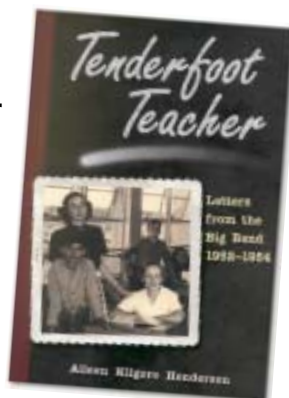
Tenderfoot Teacher

In the summer or 1952 a young teacher from Alabama took a job at Big Bend National Park headquarters; she found the country and its people overwhelming. Through her letters to family and friends, she recounts her days in the mountains, deserts, classrooms, and at the social gatherings of the day. A delightful read! 157 pages. \$15.95

Featured Publications

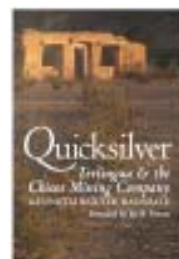
Surround yourself with the abundant and diverse natural and human history of Big Bend. Our bookstores offer a wealth of books, maps, checklists, and field guides carefully selected to help you enjoy your visit to Big Bend National Park.

Stop by any visitor center, or order these online at www.bigbendbookstore.org



Quicksilver –

Terlingua & the Chisos Mining Company
Kenneth Ragsdale's thorough and fascinating work brings the days of Howard Perry and the Terlingua mercury mining district (which included the park's Mariscal Mine) to vivid life. 327 pages. \$14.95



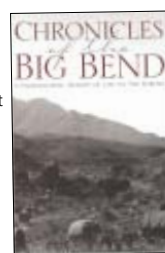
Texas Natural History

A Century of Change

To understand what we have today and what we want for tomorrow, we need to know what we had in the past. With climatic cycles, changes in land use, in supplies of surface and ground water, and other human impacts, the entire state is in constant flux. David Schmidly's comprehensive book paints the full picture. 534 pages hardbound. \$39.95

Chronicles of the Big Bend

A Photographic Memoir of Life on the Border
W.D. Smithers' photos represent probably the best collection of historic Big Bend images. The photos and accounts in this book cover the span from Pancho Villa's banditry to the 1940s. The entire collection is at the University of Texas at Austin. More than 100 are reproduced in this spectacular volume. 144 pages hardbound. \$29.95



Seminars

Spend a day with an expert and discover Geology, Birding, Lions, Reptiles, and Wildflowers in the 2003 Big Bend Natural History Seminars Program. Now in its 15th year, the immensely popular program sponsored by BBNHA continues to grow and improve.

Winter-Spring 2003 Seminar Schedule

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| January 31 | Membership Meeting |
| February 1 | Pioneer Reunion |
| February 22 <i>Richard Sharpe</i> | Camp Cooking |
| March 1 <i>Bill Bourbon</i> | Geology Jeep Tour |
| March 2 <i>Sam Richardson</i> | Big Bend 101 |
| April 5 <i>John Mac Carpenter</i> | Wildflowers #1 |
| April 6 <i>John Mac Carpenter</i> | Wildflowers #2 |
| April 12 <i>Jim Weedon</i> | Cactus & Succulents |
| April 13 <i>Robert Guzman</i> | Big Cats |
| April 26 <i>Alan Tennant</i> | Reptiles! |
| May 2-4 <i>Mark Adams</i> | Birds of Big Bend |
| May 10-11 <i>Kelly Bryan</i> | Birding in Big Bend |
| May 17 <i>Meg Goodman</i> | Bats |

Average cost for a seminar is \$50 per day with most seminars running 1-2 days. Class size is limited to 15 participants to ensure individualized instruction. Seminar participants may also take advantage of free camping in one of Big Bend's group campgrounds.

To register for a seminar or to receive a complete catalog, contact us at PO Box 196, Big Bend National Park, TX, 79834 or call 915-477-2236. You may also e-mail us at bibe_bbnha@nps.gov



Big Bend, A Homesteader's Story

No one who reads J.O. Langford's account of developing the Hot Springs near Rio Grande Village into a resort will forget his descriptions of Big Bend before ranching or the park service had made significant impacts. In 1909 he bought the place sight unseen and brought his family. This is his account of their rugged life along the Rio Grande. 159 pages. \$13.95



Overflow Camping Discontinued

In the past, when designated park campground sites became full during Big Bend National Park's busiest times, an overflow camping area was opened at Rio Grande Village for late arriving visitors. After serious consideration about visitor safety and improving visitor experiences, park officials have decided to discontinue overflow camping.



The practice of opening overflow camping began many years ago when other alternatives outside of the park were limited. Today, there are numerous privately owned and state run campgrounds and hotel accommodations west and north of the park.

The overflow camping area offered visitors only a one-night option that provided low quality and unsafe camping experiences for the same cost as the designated campsites (\$8 nightly). It promoted stressful situations, numerous complaints, and occasional disruptions with nearby campers who were too closely situated in one small, grassy area. In addition, the overflow area offered no regular campground amenities such as designated roads, defined campsites, picnic tables, grills, overhead shelters, or running water.

Big Bend National Park will continue to maintain its three designated campgrounds, which will remain on a first-come/first-served basis. Rio Grande Village Campground offers 100 sites, Chisos Basin Campground offers 63 sites, and Cottonwood Campground offers 31 sites. There are also 12 group campsites within these three campgrounds that may be reserved in advance by parties of 10 or more. In addition, the National Park Service offers 72 primitive backcountry road campsites, 43 primitive backpacking campsites, and numerous open-zone backcountry camping areas that are all free of charge and available by permit.



Advisory!

Border Crossing Conditions Have Changed...

A reminder that entering the U.S. at other than an authorized border crossing point is illegal. There are NO authorized crossings in Big Bend NP. Crossing at Boquillas, Santa Elena, or other locations along the Rio Grande is prohibited. The closest legal ports of entry are at Del Rio and Presidio, Texas.

The U.S. Attorney's Office has indicated that it will prosecute any criminal viola-

tions regarding these illegal crossings. If you re-enter the United States at any point within Big Bend National Park, you may be liable for a fine of not more than \$5,000 or imprisonment for up to one year, or both.

Please consult Park Rangers for the latest updates on this situation.

Big Bend Live!

Magnificent sunsets, fiery sunrises, and the continuously changing play of light on the Deadhorse Mountains are now visible from your home computer! Log onto the official Big Bend National Park Website and you can see what park employees get to see everyday...the view looking southeast from park headquarters, updated every 15 minutes.

View the Sierra del Carmen and the Basin Window...

LIVE!

Soon, website visitors will also be able to enjoy a continuously updating view through the Chisos Basin Window!

Although great for bringing Big Bend's scenery into your home, the purpose of this webcam goes beyond providing just pretty pictures. There are great concerns over Big Bend's deteriorating air quality. This webcam is one of many instruments now continuously monitoring visibility in the park. Site visitors can now access real-time readings on visibility, ozone levels, and even archived images of each day.

Click over to www.nps.gov/bibe and check it out!

Night Sky Highlights

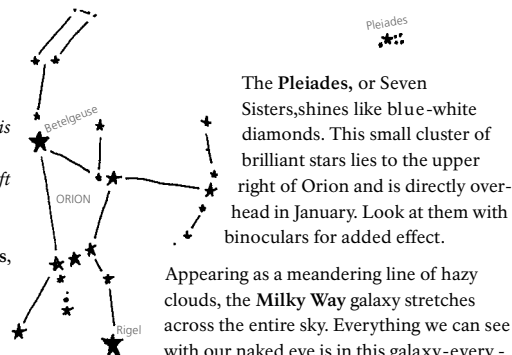
Lack of light pollution makes Big Bend National Park one of the nation's best stargazing spots. Many park visitors are amazed to see what a naturally dark sky actually looks like. You too, may discover that some of Big Bend's best scenery comes out at night. Look up on any winter night for these celestial figures and events:

The constellation **Orion** dominates the winter sky with his 3-star belt and predominant stars Betelgeuse (the reddish star on his right shoulder) and Rigel (the blue-white star on his left knee).

Orion's belt points at **Sirius**, the brightest night star and the first star visible at dusk.



Jupiter and **Saturn** both shine brightly in the night sky this winter. Look for Saturn to the upper right of Orion, in the constellation Taurus. Jupiter is lower in the east in the Crab constellation.



The **Pleiades**, or Seven Sisters, shines like blue-white diamonds. This small cluster of brilliant stars lies to the upper right of Orion and is directly overhead in January. Look at them with binoculars for added effect.

Appearing as a meandering line of hazy clouds, the **Milky Way** galaxy stretches across the entire sky. Everything we can see with our naked eye is in this galaxy—everything but one small object. Careful observers may see a small fuzzy spot in the constellation Andromeda. This blur is the Andromeda Galaxy, a cluster of billions of stars located over 2.2 million light years away.

Join a Ranger!

Park rangers regularly present astronomy programs. Check out the weekly program schedule posted at park visitor centers.

WANTED: Junior Rangers!



fun as they learn about the park. They can also earn stickers, badges, patches, and certificates.



Learn desert secrets, identify the parts of a cactus, and discover what javelina eat!

The Big Bend Junior Ranger program is designed for kids of all ages. Through activities, games, and puzzles, kids can have

Pick up your copy of the Junior Ranger Book today at any park visitor center!

Surf Big Bend

Official NPS Website



Live Web-cam
Daily Weather
River Levels
Campgrounds
Research

Backcountry
Park Maps
Press Releases
Road Conditions
Ranger Programs
What's Blooming?
Bird Sightings
Photo Gallery

...and more!

www.nps.gov/bibe

Preserving Big Bend's Oral Legacy

The history of the Big Bend region is far from dull, perhaps because so many different types of people have lived here—ranchers, farmers, cowboys, goat herders, freighters, miners, school teachers, government officials, millionaires—even resort owners!

Through its *Oral History Project*, Big Bend National Park is committed to preserving some of the most colorful memories of these unique individuals. Since 1975, park staff members and volunteers have interviewed more than two hundred people who played a role in Big Bend's history, or who contributed to the development of Big Bend National Park.

The tape recordings from these interviews are stored with the park's museum collection and at the National Park Service's museum storage facility at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. The park's goal is to transcribe all of the tapes into digital format and make printed copies, to prevent any loss of information as the original tapes inevitably deteriorate. Backup copies of the tapes also are kept in the park's library.

About half of the tapes remain to be transcribed. This means that someone must listen to each tape on a transcription machine and type its interview onto a floppy computer disc. Also, someone must create an index for each of the resulting transcripts, reading it from start to finish, dividing it into sections according to subject matter, and then noting the beginning and ending time of each section on the original tape. Obviously, this work is very painstaking and time-consuming.

Many of the interviews collected through Big Bend's *Oral History Project* document the creation and early growth of Big Bend National Park. Residents of the area, as well as former park employees, have contributed vivid memories of those formative years, when the park was undeveloped and conditions were very different from what we know today.



In the Beginning...

Interviews Document Park's Creation and Growth

A few of the memories are sad. For instance, **Julia Nail Moss**, the daughter of rancher Sam Nail, grew up on the Nail Ranch, which was located on the west side of the Chisos Mountains (along the present Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive). Although she was very young at the time, Mrs. Moss remembers how her father and mother entertained the National Park Service dignitaries who visited the area back in the 1930s, when Big Bend was being considered for national park status. The dignitaries slept at the Nail Ranch, where Julia's mother cooked their meals. Also, Mr. Nail provided horses for their visit to the South Rim.

Young Julia was especially impressed by the superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, a man by the name of Roger Toll. He seemed very courteous, and he

thanked Mrs. Nail profusely for her kindness. Later, Julia learned that Mr. Toll had been killed in an automobile accident on his way back to Yellowstone from Big Bend. Today, Toll Mountain—which overlooks the Chisos Basin—bears his name.

Most of the oral history memories are more cheerful, including one that involves a humorous deception. During the 1930s, as the state of Texas was purchasing private land holdings for the creation of Big Bend National Park, the Federal government's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) began making improvements in and around the Chisos Basin. (*The present road leading up Green Gulch into the Basin was one of the results*).

Around 1940, a young man by the name of **Roscoe Weaver** wanted to join the CCC. The only problem was...you had to be at least seventeen to join, and he was only

sixteen. What to do? Well, Roscoe lied about his age. After joining the CCC, he was assigned to the unit working in the Chisos Basin. Before Roscoe's two-year hitch ended, however, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, the United States was at war, and all of the young men in the CCC were driven into Alpine to register for the draft, including Roscoe. Uh-oh... You had to be at least eighteen to register, but Roscoe had lied about his age and wasn't yet old enough. Now what?

Expecting the worst, he gathered up his courage and reluctantly approached his CCC commander. When he admitted the truth, the man broke out laughing and said it was the funniest thing he had ever heard—although too young for the military, Roscoe had already become a sergeant and a project leader in the CCC! Roscoe remained at Big Bend, and when he finally did register for the draft, he was classified 4-F, because one of his legs was shorter than the other!

Some of Big Bend National Park's early employees remember humorous incidents involving dignitaries who visited the park. Superintendent **Joseph Carithers**, for in-

stance, recalls that Lady Bird Johnson (*wife of then-Vice President Johnson*) was scheduled to visit in the early 1960s.

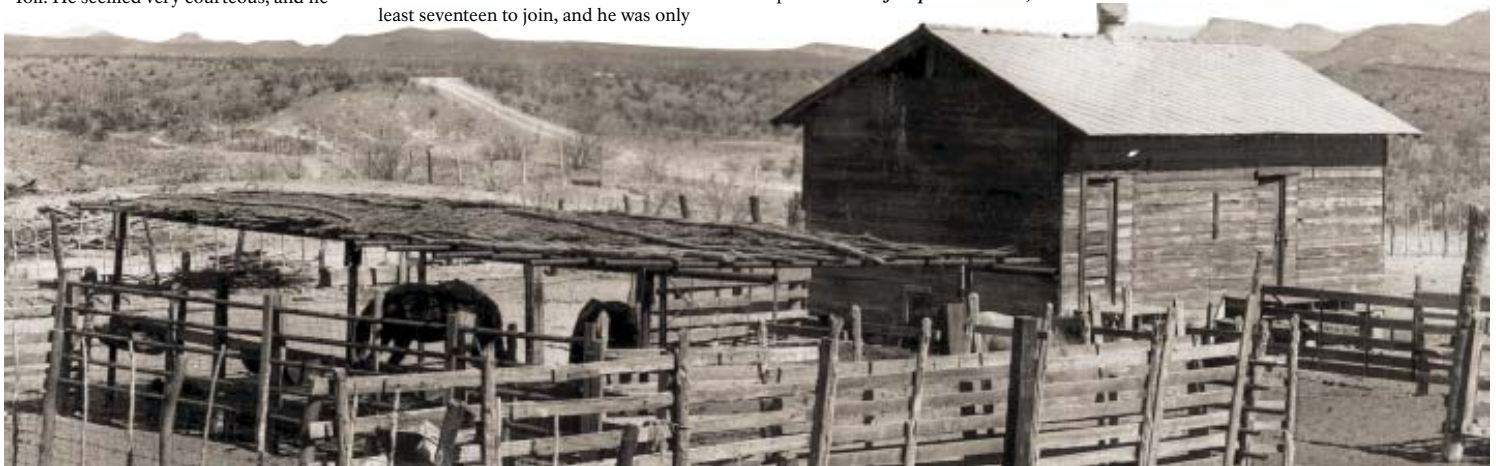
Mrs. Johnson's staff thought it would be nice for her to see lots of pronghorn antelope grazing near the runway when her plane landed at the airport in Alpine—after all, what could be more typical of West Texas? So, a few local people rounded up a small herd of pronghorns from the Davis Mountains and had them grazing near the runway as Mrs. Johnson's plane started to land. Unfortunately, something spooked the herd at the last minute, and some of the animals ran onto the runway just in time to be struck and killed by the plane she was in. Oops.

The memories of Joseph Carithers, Julia Nail Moss, Roscoe Weaver and others who have lived and worked in the Big Bend region and within Big Bend National Park are a priceless oral legacy. They provide valuable insights into the creation and early development of Big Bend National Park, and fortunately, the park's *Oral History Project* provides for their preservation.



Ruins at Mariscal Mine

Ranger Doug Thompson



Lion Country

If Big Bend had a symbol, it might well be the mountain lion - the embodiment of freedom and wildness. Solitary and secretive, this mighty creature is the unquestioned lord of its natural world. As one of Big Bend's top predators, *Felis concolor*—"cat all of one color"—is vital in maintaining the park's biological diversity. Within the delicate habitats of the Chihuahuan Desert, mountain lions help balance herbivores (animals that eat plants) and vegetation. Research shows that cats help keep deer and javelina within the limits of their food resources. Without lions, the complex network of life in Big Bend would certainly be changed.

Encountering a mountain lion, however, can lead to conflicts in maintaining the balance between natural processes and visitor enjoyment and safety. Since the 1950s, there have been more than 800 sightings of mountain lions by visitors. While over 90 percent of these sightings were along park roadways, encounters along trails have also occurred. Since 1984, three lion and human encounters have resulted in attacks on people. In all cases, those attacked recovered from their injuries and the aggressive lions were killed, preventing them from playing out their important natural roles. The more we know about lions, and the less we seek an encounter, the better able we will be to make life easier for them and for us.

How much do you really know about this powerful and wild cat? Mountain lions live throughout the park, including the Chisos Mountains where they prefer to use trails. Your chances of encountering an aggressive lion are remote. What can you do to minimize the consequences of an encounter? Avoid hiking alone or at dusk or dawn. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead of you.



T. Carter

NEVER RUN FROM A LION!

Do not crouch down; the lion has seen you long before you saw it.

Hold your ground, wave your hands, shout! If the lion behaves aggressively, throw stones.

Convince the lion that you are not prey and that you may be dangerous yourself.

If you have small children with you, pick them up and do all you can to appear large.

Report all lion sightings to a park ranger.

The lion's role is a part of the health and welfare of the entire ecosystem. Research and further human understanding of the cat's habits pave the way for conservation efforts in its behalf. As we discover more about the lion, we fear it less and appreciate it more. For many visitors, just seeing a track, or just knowing lions are out there, will be reward enough.

Black Bears

The return of black bears to Big Bend National Park is a success story for both the bears and the park. Native to the Chisos Mountains, bears disappeared from this area during the pre-park settlement era. After an absence of several decades, bears began returning to the park from Mexico in the early 1990s.

Today, wildlife biologists estimate that up to 12 black bears may live in the park.

Though they prefer the wooded Chisos Mountains, bears also range along the Rio Grande and throughout the desert, particularly when drought dries up their regular water sources in the mountains.

Black bears are omnivorous. They eat large amounts of nuts, fruits, sotol and yucca hearts, insects, and smaller quantities of eggs, small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, honey, and carrion. Their strong sense of smell also leads them to human foods, and they can quickly open coolers, backpacks, and trash cans when enticed by food odors.

Bears normally avoid humans, but bears that learn to get food from human sources often become aggressive in their attempts to get more "people" food. When humans disobey the rules of both the park and nature by feeding bears, it is the bears that end up paying the ultimate price. Park staff may have to kill bears that lose their fear of people and en-

danger humans in their attempts to get our food. Fortunately, Big Bend has not had to kill any bears, but some other national parks destroy several bears each season; we hope

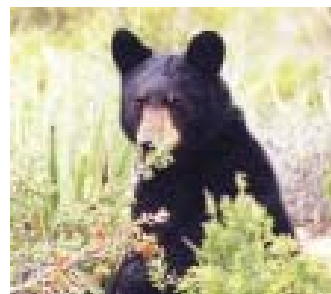
that through educating visitors about proper behavior in bear country, we can avoid this tragic outcome.

Big Bend has made it easy to keep edible items away from bears. Campers at the Chisos Basin Campground, at High Chisos backpacking sites, and at some primitive roadside campsites will find bearproof storage lockers for storing all edibles. Hard-sided vehicles are also suitable for storing edible items. All dumpsters in the Chisos Mountains developed areas are bearproof, as well. And remember, a bear's

definition of an "edible" is far broader than ours; lock up sunscreen, skin lotion, toothpaste, soap, and other toiletries whose odors might attract wildlife.

There really are no problem bears - only problem people. Carelessness can kill. Don't be responsible for the death of a bear. Follow the guidelines below. Pay close attention to the food storage rules posted in the Basin campground and on your backpacking permit. Your actions affect both Big Bend's wildlife and future park visitors.

With your help, bears and humans CAN live safely together in Big Bend National Park.



D. Onorato

Don't Call Me Pig!

For many visitors to Big Bend National Park, seeing a javelina (hav-uh-LEE-nuh) is a new experience. These curious creatures, also known as collared peccaries, are only found in the United States in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. They are covered with black, bristly hairs and generally weigh between 40 and 60 pounds. They usually travel in groups called bands that consist of 10-25 individuals. Peccaries have a highly developed sense of smell, but very poor vision.

Physically, javelinas resemble pigs, but in reality, they are not closely related to pigs at all and have been genetically distinct from them for millions of years. A closer look reveals several major differences between the two animals. Javelinas have 38 teeth; domestic pigs and wild boars have 44. The canine teeth of the javelina are short and straight, while those of pigs are longer

and curved. Javelinas have a scent gland that they use to mark their territory that pigs do not have. Pigs sweat to keep themselves cool, but javelinas do not have sweat glands and must instead cool themselves in available water sources or by staying in the shade.

A javelina's diet includes prickly pear cactus, grasses, mesquite beans, pinyon pine nuts, fruits, berries, and seeds. Unfortunately however, many javelinas now include human food as part of their diet. Every year we are seeing more and more campsites in the park raided by javelina. Although normally not aggressive, they can be when food is involved. Never feed javelinas. Protect yourselves and our javelinas by properly storing all your food inside a vehicle or in the food storage lockers provided in the campgrounds. Do not leave coolers or food boxes unattended on picnic tables or in a tent. Flat-

ten tents when you are away from your campsite. It is important that javelinas and all park animals eat their natural food sources to stay healthy and safe. With your help, these unique animals can continue to thrive and thrill park visitors for years to come.



T. VandenBerg

Keep ALL Wildlife WILD

In the Basin Campground

- Store food, beverages, trash, toiletries, pet food, and dishes in the bearproof storage locker provided at your site.
- Keep your campsite clean. Take trash and food scraps to a dumpster.
- Dump liquids in restroom utility sinks, not on the ground.
- Ice chests and coolers are not bear-proof; store them in your vehicle.

Cyclists

- Use food storage lockers where provided.

At the lodge

- Leave nothing outside your room, on the balcony, or on the porch.

When hiking

- Never leave packs or food unattended.
- Avoid carrying odorous food and toiletries.
- Leave excess food and beverages in your trunk or food storage box
- Carry out all trash, including orange peels, cigarette butts, and left-over food.



Homer Wilson's house at Oak Spring



Ore Tramway & Wax Smuggler



Horseback in the Chisos Basin



Buttrill children

Memories of La Coyota

During the first decades of the twentieth century, La Coyota was a small farming community along the banks of the Rio Grande, just a few miles northwest of Castolon and within the future boundaries of Big Bend National Park. Today, all that remains of the settlement are a few crumbling ruins and the memories of those who once lived there. Through its *Oral History Project*, Big Bend National Park is trying to preserve as many of the memories as possible. In January 2000, park volunteer Doug Hay interviewed Mrs. German (Ramirez) Rivera, a former La Coyota resident, and she provided an intriguing story. Mrs. Rivera believes the community was named by its first settlers after a man shot a coyote that was attempting to break into a hen house.

Mrs. Rivera remembers that there was usually running water along Alamo Creek (*now a dry wash*), which made subsistence farming possible. The families dug ditches to bring surface water runoff into the fields. They raised corn, wheat and many vegetables, as well as hogs and chickens for their own consumption, selling surpluses and tamales to the miners in Terlingua. The road to Terlingua went alongside the creek in those days.

Houses in La Coyota had wood stoves for cooking. There were no glass windows or screens. The houses did have doors, however, which usually were shut in fear of bandits from Mexico. Mrs. Rivera remembers bandits robbing a store in Study Butte, and pursuit by a posse formed at the Chisos Mine by manager Robert Cartledge.

Mrs. Rivera remembers that weddings were festive, but rare. Women in La Coyota mar-

ried late, usually in their thirties, because travel was infrequent and they rarely met anyone other than their cousins and uncles. The only church was in Terlingua, and older women led the religious services, saying novenas to the various saints.

As the youngest girl at La Coyota, Mrs. Rivera bore a portrait of San Isidro, the patron saint of farmers, in a procession on the saint's feast day, during which the people

prayed for rain. Sometimes this worked too well, she said, and they would be drenched by downpours and cut off from home by runoff in the dry washes. When it did not rain, San Isidro's portrait would be hung on a post outside and remain there until it did.

Mrs. Rivera spent part of her youth living with friends in the mining communities at Terlingua and Study Butte, where she went to

school for three years. Her last year in school was grade four, when she was twelve years old, in the Castolon compound. Most of the nine pupils at Castolon at that time were age seventeen or older. They did not know much English, and since the teacher did not speak Spanish, Mrs. Rivera became his interpreter. Boys and girls sat on separate benches and played apart at recess. The school was sparsely furnished, with a wood stove, dirt floor, three handmade benches, a table and blackboard. Students had to buy their own pencils and pens at the store and be careful not to waste too much paper. Schoolbooks were secondhand, circulating from Alpine to Terlingua and then to Castolon.



Holding Hands With History

Volunteer Scarlett Wirt

I had just arrived at Big Bend National Park, eager to begin my first volunteer position with the National Park Service. Following the Ross Maxwell Drive toward Santa Elena Canyon, I stopped to explore one of the adobe ruins along the roadside. "Who could possibly have lived here?" I wondered. "Where did they come from? Why did they come here? How did they survive in this barren countryside?" Nearby, a small family gravesite remained, wooden crosses marking the plots. Candle stubs and broken bits of colored glass littered the ground at the foot of a small shrine. With a shock, I realized these artifacts were not ancient remains, but recent, signs of a family's respect for departed ancestors. As I was soon to discover, the past is very much present in Big Bend.

The National Park Service has used volunteers since 1970. In the beginning, volunteers were used largely in visitor centers and campgrounds. Increasingly, however, volunteers work behind-the-scenes to help with resource management projects ranging from paleontology to historical research. My volunteer project at Big Bend was to inventory a large box filled with oral history tapes.

As I sifted through tapes, transcripts, scraps of paper, and old correspondence, I realized the park had only begun to tap the knowledge stored in these tapes. The transcripts were not indexed, so it was very difficult to find material on any particular subject. Many tapes had never been transcribed. Before long, that box had become the seeds of the Big Bend Oral History Project.

The first step was to develop a comprehensive inventory of oral history materials. Research into the park's archives yielded not only tapes, but transcripts, old project plans, and gift deed forms. The old project plans are useful in understanding when and why certain interviews were conducted. Gift deed forms are legal documents that convey copyright to the park and allow the park service to use the interview.

An oral history collection is of questionable value if no one has access to the material. A questionnaire distributed to park staff revealed that most rangers were aware of the collection but didn't know where it was or how to use it. Access to the material became the next priority. Guidelines were developed for transcribing and indexing tapes so that the material will be useful to park staff, and ultimately, visitors.

Preservation is a critical, but often overlooked, element of oral history. The original tapes must be stored in a climate-controlled environment to prevent degradation. Format is important too, as media changes over time. The oldest interviews are on reel-to-reel analog tape (still considered by archivists to be the best preservation format).

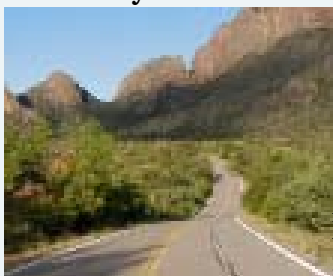
With the existing material accounted for, I turned my attention to the future. Although the park has many stories from Anglo settlers, the stories of the Mexican-American families who settled and farmed the southwestern portion of the park are largely untold. For example, the village of Terlingua Abajo was one of the largest in the park, with about sixty structures, a permanent church, two graveyards, a threshing circle, and a cantina. But we know little of the people who made Terlingua Abajo their home. This spring, the Oral History Project will enter a new phase, as the park begins interviews with former residents of Terlingua Abajo. Park staff and volunteers will learn interview techniques, research the history of Terlingua Abajo, and gain first-hand experience with oral history.

Through oral history, we reach back in time and draw the past into the present, honoring and preserving the life stories of those who came before.

Now That You're Here, What Can You Do?

You've driven many miles to get here, and have finally arrived at your destination: Big Bend National Park. But now what? Now that you're here, how do you spend your time? Where should you go? What should you explore? The park is big, and often visitors have a limited amount of time to explore.

One Day



If time allows, drive to the **Chisos Mountains** to take in the spectacular mountain views. Walk the 0.3-mile self-guiding Window View Trail to get a feel for the mountain scenery.

A trip along the **Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive** will give you a taste of the Chihuahuan Desert and will lead you to the Rio Grande. There are scenic overlooks and exhibits along the way. Sotol Vista, Mule Ears Overlook and Tuff Canyon are all worthwhile stops. The short walks to the Sam Nail (Old) Ranch and Homer Wilson (Blue Creek) Ranch and a visit to the Castolon Historic District will give you a glimpse into Big Bend's past.

A highlight is the short (*1.6-mile round trip*) walk into **Santa Elena Canyon**—one of Big Bend's most scenic spots. Drive to the end of the Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive to access the trailhead. You may return to the main road by returning on the Ross Maxwell Drive or on the **Maverick Road**, a 13-mile gravel road linking the Ross Maxwell Drive to the Maverick (west) Entrance. Always check on road conditions first.

Three Days



With three days to spend in the park, you can explore the major roads more thoroughly and still have time for hiking. In the Basin area, consider hiking the **Window Trail** (5 miles round trip) or the **Lost Mine Trail** (4.8 miles round trip); consult the *Hiker's Guide to Trails of Big Bend National Park*, for sale in park visitor centers, for trail descriptions.

In addition to the Basin and Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive (see suggestions for "one day") you can drive to **Rio Grande Village**, perhaps stopping at Dugout Wells along the way to walk the short Chihuahuan Desert Nature Trail. The Rio Grande Village Visitor Center offers a brief introductory slide program. Walk the **Rio Grande Village Nature Trail** which begins near site #18 in the campground. The bluff overlooking the Rio Grande at the end of the nature trail is a particularly beautiful spot at sunset.

Boquillas Canyon road will take you to several overlooks of the Rio Grande and the small village of Boquillas, Mexico. At the end of the road is the **Boquillas Canyon Trail**, which takes you to the entrance of this spectacular canyon.

One Week



With a week or more to spend in Big Bend, endless possibilities are open to you. You'll have plenty of time to explore the roads mentioned in the previous sections, and will also have time to hike or to drive some of the **"unimproved" dirt roads**. For these, you'll need a high clearance or four-wheel drive vehicle; don't forget to check at visitor centers for current road conditions. The River Road, Glenn Springs Road and Old Ore Road are some of the more popular backcountry routes. A visit to Ernst Tinaja near the south end of the Old Ore Road is a Big Bend highlight.

If you don't have high clearance or four-wheel drive, gravel roads such as Dagger Flat, Grapevine Hills and Maverick will get you "off the beaten path." Hike the Chimneys Trail, Mule Ears Trail, or Grapevine Hills Trail for a closer look at the desert environment. If you'd like to explore the Chisos Mountains, trails to Boot Canyon, Emory Peak and the South Rim offer good views of the park and take you into another world which seems far removed from the desert. There are plenty of opportunities for overnight backpacking along these trails. A free backcountry use permit is required and can be obtained at park visitor centers.

Float The Rio Grande



If you have the time and a spirit of adventure, you may want to consider a river trip. Seeing the park's canyons from the middle of the Rio Grande is both fascinating and gratifying. There are many possibilities, from half-day floats to extended seven-day excursions. Park Rangers can recommend a trip that meets your abilities and interests. Rafting and equipment rental companies are listed on page 14.

See "Backcountry Planning" on page 13 for additional information on Big Bend river trips.

Enjoying Your Visit

No matter how limited your time in Big Bend, remember that you will enjoy the park more if you **stop your car and explore on foot**. That doesn't mean that you have to hike miles on steep grades; there are many short, easy walks and roadside exhibits where you can stretch your legs and enjoy the sights, smells and sounds of the Chihuahuan Desert.

Hiker's guides and road guides are available at book sales areas throughout the park, and they

offer more detailed information about Big Bend's trails and roads. Attending **ranger-led activities** and evening programs are also good ways to learn more about Big Bend; check at the visitor centers and park bulletin boards for current activities.

Remember, you will NOT be able to see everything on this trip. You will probably enjoy the park more if you choose a few spots and explore them thoroughly to get a taste of what Big Bend has to offer. Then, come back again sometime to see the rest!





From the 7,825 foot summit of Emory Peak, to the banks of the meandering Rio Grande, visitors will find over 200 miles of hiking trails in Big Bend National Park. Trails range from strenuous primitive routes through rugged desert backcountry to short handicapped- accessible pathways.

Below are descriptions of many of the most popular easy and moderate hiking trails. Most of these trails are perfect for shorter day hikes of up to several hours. For information on longer, more difficult routes, or to plan an extended backpacking trip, stop by any park visitor center. A large selection of maps and trail guides are available and park rangers can assist you in trip preparations and backcountry permits.

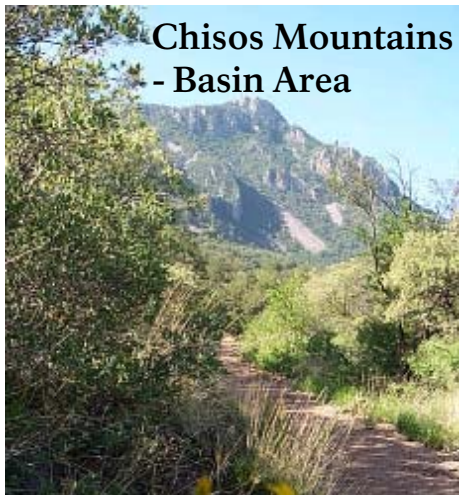
Panther Junction - Rio Grande Village Area

Between Panther Junction and Rio Grande Village lies a vast sweep of scrub desert, rocky ridges, and river floodplain. Sprinkled through this massive area are trails that

highlight the fascinating natural and human history of Big Bend. Discover Indian mortar holes in Boquillas Canyon and the early pioneer settlements of Dugout Wells and Hot Springs. Enjoy the diverse birdlife along the Rio Grande and the rich geology at Grapevine Hills.

One of the more popular areas in Big Bend's east

| Trail | Roundtrip Length | Comments | Trailhead Location |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| Grapevine Hills | 2.2 miles | Follows a sandy wash through boulder field. A short climb at the end takes you to a large balanced rock archway | Grapevine Hills Road mile 6 |
| Chihuahuan Desert Nature Trail | 0.5 miles | A flat desert path near a cottonwood oasis. Signs interpret Chihuahuan Desert plant life. | Dugout Wells Picnic Area |
| Hot Springs | 0.75 miles | Walk past historic buildings to the riverside hot springs. 105°F water. <i>Take a bathing suit and soak a while.</i> | End of Hot Springs Road (<i>unpaved</i>) |
| Rio Grande Village Nature Trail | 0.75 miles | Cross a boardwalk and climb 125 feet to a great panoramic view of the river floodplain and distant mountains. Good birding and sunrise/sunset views. | Rio Grande Village Campground (<i>site 18</i>) |
| Boquillas Canyon | 1.4 miles | Begins with a short climb, then descends via a sandy path to the river. Ends near a huge sand "slide." | End of Boquillas Canyon Road |



Chisos Mountains - Basin Area

The Chisos Mountains form the rugged heart of Big Bend National Park. High ridges and summits coax moisture from passing clouds. The result is a forested mountain "island" surrounded by a desert sea.

When the lower desert trails become uncomfortably hot, enjoy the shady, pine - scented trails of the Chisos Mountains. All Chisos trails begin from the Basin area

side, is the Hot Springs Historic District. Drift back in time and imagine what life was like during the early 1900s when J.O. Langford developed this natural hot spring into a tiny health resort. A one-mile loop takes you past the old motel, post office, homestead, and foundation of the hot spring bathhouse.



which is located in the center of the park.

For a good introduction to the scenery and wildlife of the Chisos, hike the **Window Trail**. From the Basin Campground, this trail winds two miles through colorful Oak Creek Canyon to the top of the Window pouroff. Wildlife is abundant along this trail. Look and listen for javelina, white - tailed deer, and Mexican jays.

| Trail | Roundtrip Length | Comments | Trailhead Location |
|-------------|------------------|---|--|
| Window View | 0.3 mile | Level, paved, handicapped accessible. Great sunsets and mountain views. | Chisos Basin Trailhead (<i>near the Basin Store</i>) |
| Basin Loop | 1.6 miles | Connects the Laguna Meadow and Pinnacles Trails. Climbs 350 feet through pine/oak woodland. Nice views of the Basin area. | Chisos Basin Trailhead (<i>near the Basin Store</i>) |
| The Window | 5.6 miles | Descends to the top of the Window pouroff. Great scenery and wildlife viewing. Climbs 800 feet on return. | Chisos Basin Trailhead or Basin Campground |
| Lost Mine | 4.8 miles | This magnificent hike climbs 1,100 feet to excellent mountain and desert views. | Basin Road mile 5 (<i>at Panther Pass</i>) |

Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive

The Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive skirts the rocky ramparts of the Chisos Mountains and descends through the spectacular west side of Big Bend National Park. Many of the park's best views and desert hikes are found here.

The Ross Maxwell Drive ends at the trailhead to **Santa Elena Canyon**. There is no better trail to experience the sights and sounds of the Rio Grande. From the parking area, the giant chasm is in full view before you. Hike to the

river's edge and follow it upstream into a world of superlative cliffs and dense thickets of riverside vegetation. Enjoy the sounds of moving water and the descending song of the canyon wren.

| Trail | Roundtrip Length | Comments | Trailhead Location |
|--------------------|------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Burro Mesa Pouroff | 1.0 mile | A flat, sandy trail up a canyon to the base of a dry pouroff. Interesting geology and desert plants. | Ross Maxwell Dr. mile 11 |
| The Chimneys | 4.8 miles | Flat desert trail to prominent rock formations. Look for rock art. No shade. | Ross Maxwell Dr. mile 13 |
| Mule Ears Spring | 3.8 miles | A beautiful desert hike to a small spring. Spectacular geology and mountain/desert views. | Ross Maxwell Dr. mile 15 |
| Tuff Canyon | 0.75 miles | Balconies overlook this scenic canyon. A short trail leads into and through the narrow gorge carved out of soft volcanic tuff. | Ross Maxwell Dr. mile 20 |
| Santa Elena Canyon | 1.6 miles | Crosses creekbed, climbs stairs, then follows the river upstream into the mouth of a magnificent 1,500 foot deep limestone canyon. | 8 miles west of Castolon |



Dugout Wells: The Cultural Center of early Big Bend

Dugout Wells, six miles east of Panther Junction is a perfect example of some of Big Bend's hidden history. Today's visitors enjoy the short nature trail that meanders through the desert and among the tiny oasis of cottonwoods. Few realize, however, that this seemingly isolated location was once known as the "cultural center of Big Bend," for nestled among the trees and windmill were once two homes, a working ranch, and even a schoolhouse.

Homesteading families were in the area by the late 1800s. At the turn of the century, J.C. Avery began ranching at Dugout. His daughter married John Rice who lived two miles away at Chilicotal Spring. John's brother, Fred Rice settled at nearby Grapevine Spring. In 1917, the Green family bought the ranch at Dugout and arrived with their

eleven children in a covered wagon. Willie Green, then six years old, described life at Dugout as pleasant. There was no electricity and the closest store was ten miles away at Glenn Springs. Trips to town for supplies were made once a year, as the round trip could took 2-3 weeks. The



Social Event at the Dugout School



Green's would live at Dugout until 1937. The name "dugout" either refers to an early well dug by hand, or maybe the dug-out house that was found on the property when the Greens bought the ranch.

The Greens improved the property to the point that it soon became a comfortable social gathering place for Big Bend's early settlers. People would travel from miles around for the dances, meetings, and social events at Dugout. Frederick Rice, who grew up at Grapevine, fondly recalled the dances at Dugout. "Everyone came early, usually around three o'clock and me and the boys my age would have all evening to run around. Later we'd have a big barbeque. They put out pallets for the kids to sleep on, and they'd dance all night. They'd eat breakfast the next morning, collect the kids, and go back home."

Providing education for their children was always a challenge for these isolated ranching families. Dugout was chosen as the site for one of the earliest schools in what would eventually become the park. The schoolhouse was located just to the west of the windmill and stood until 1936. Names of children that attended the dugout

school are a virtual who's who of early Big Bend families: Green, Petit, Lofton, Rice, and Henderson. Teachers varied year to year, and some lived with nearby families. C.L. Hannold lived southeast of Grapevine Hills, and supplemented his income by teaching at the Dugout school. Hannold would walk the five miles to Dugout every Sunday afternoon and return home to his family every Friday evening. Two of Willie Green's sisters would also teach at the Dugout school. Today the park school is located at Panther Junction and boasts 22 students.

Today the buildings are gone, yet a lone windmill still pumps water. The trickle of water ensures that Dugout Wells remains an important gathering place, albeit for thirsty desert wildlife. Bird song fills the air and the wind rustles the cottonwoods. Stroll the short nature trail and discover the remains of the dugout house that may have given this place its name. Few other traces remain of what was once here: the "cultural center" of Big Bend.

A good imagination will help in recreating the scene, the buildings, and another way of life.

Ranger Tom VandenBerg

Hot Springs is one of the most visited areas of Big Bend National Park. Native Americans utilized the spring by chipping out a tub to collect the water. They believed the spring could cure stomach ailments, rheumatic conditions, and all types of skin diseases. Rumors of the healing powers of the Hot Springs spread until they reached the ears of J.O. Langford in Alpine, Texas in 1909. From that moment on, Langford's life was changed and the legacy of the Hot Springs began.

A Leap of Faith

Homesteading at Hot Springs, Texas

J.O. Langford grew up in Mississippi and was plagued with chronic malaria that gave him stomach problems and sapped his strength. Doctors encouraged him to move west in hopes that a dryer, warmer climate would improve his condition. Langford took this advice and moved with his wife Bessy to Dallas, then Midland, and eventually Alpine. Unfortunately, his malaria persisted. One day, Langford overheard two men talking about the healing powers of a hot spring down in the Big Bend. He was so desperate to cure himself that he filed a claim on the land that same day. He purchased the Hot Springs property sight unseen, with little idea of how he would support his family in a place best known for its rattlesnakes and bandits. Langford himself admitted that, "On the face of it, such a gamble was sheer madness. The odds were all against us".



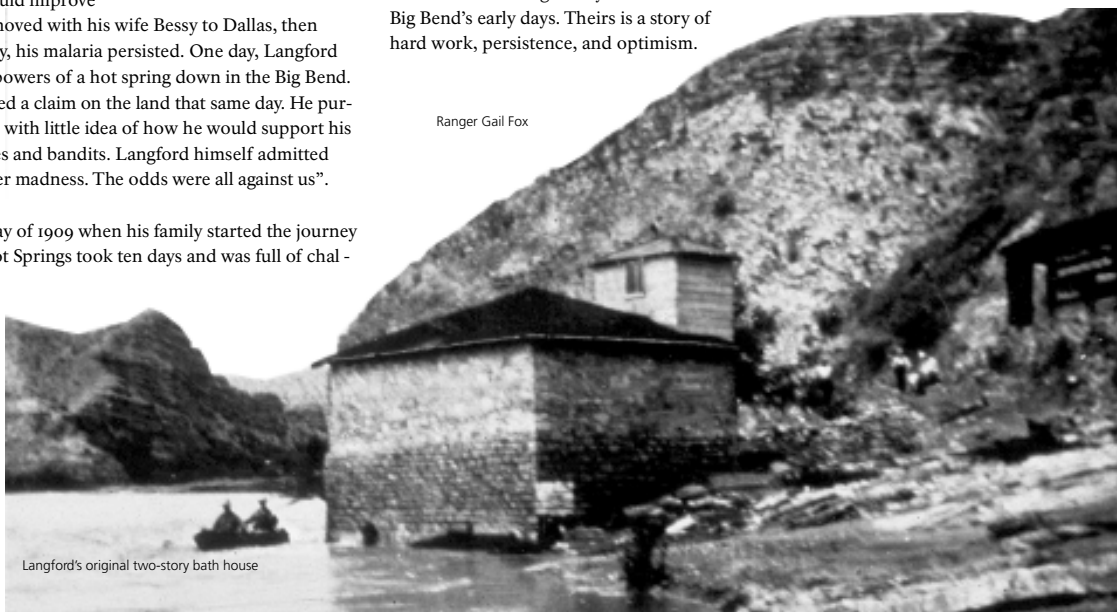
Hot Springs Motel

Progress at first was slow, but J.O.'s condition improved with time. As his strength returned, he built an adobe home for his family and later constructed a two-story bathhouse at the spring. As word of the Hot Springs development spread, more and more people visited the resort. But in 1913 when the Mexican Revolution was beginning and the border experienced violent raids, the Langfords made the difficult decision to leave. They returned again in 1927 and built the motel units and the store/post office. The Langfords stayed until 1942 when their land was bought by the state for the formation of Big Bend National Park.

Today visitors to Hot Springs can see the old store and post office, motel rooms, and the bathhouse foundation. You can still soak in the 104-degree spring waters and test their healing powers for yourself. As you visit this part of the park, remember the incredible leap of faith that the Langford family took and the challenges they overcame to be successful in

Big Bend's early days. There's a story of hard work, persistence, and optimism.

Ranger Gail Fox



Langford's original two-story bath house

The Mariscal Mine

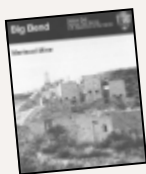
M.K. Manning



Throughout history, people have been entranced by the prospect of finding precious metals. The quest for these metals, particularly gold and silver, has often led to the exploration and settlement of new lands.

The Big Bend area was no different. The Spaniards never found their fabled cities of gold, but later prospectors found other valuable metals, particularly mercury. The mercury mining industry contributed to the settlement of the Big Bend region and played a big role in the history of what is now Big Bend National Park.

If your vehicle is suitable for a rough dirt road, take a drive along the River Road to the Mariscal Mine Historic District, located at the north end of Mariscal Mountain. Before you go, pick up a brochure for the Mariscal Mine at any park visitor center. This pamphlet describes the history of this mining complex and includes a map of the site. Most of the mining equipment



was removed and sold after the mine closed, but many of the structures still remain. Today, these ruins are the best - preserved quicksilver mining site in Texas. The masonry structures illustrate virtually every stage of the mercury mining industry as it evolved during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Between 1900 and 1943, this mine produced 1,400 3-quart flasks of mercury, nearly one-quarter of the total produced in the U.S.! During those years, mercury was put to a number of chemical, industrial, and pharmaceutical uses. It was found in thermometers and barometers, in medical and dental preparations, and in pesticides. Its most important application, however, was in warfare. It was used as a primer to detonate gunpowder and was thus essential for the manufacture of blasting caps and bomb detonators.

Not surprisingly, the market value of mercury greatly increased during World War I, averaging \$115 per flask. After the war, the demand for mercury dropped to an average of \$46 per flask. This drop in price, combined with problems with the mine furnace and limited mercury production from the mine, led to the ultimate closure of the Mariscal Mine.

During the busiest and most productive era, from 1919 - 1923, 20 to 40 mine workers and their families lived here. Many of them gardened along nearby Fresno Creek, and some also raised goats. Remnants of this community can be found throughout the desert around Mariscal Mine. Houses built of rocks, adobe, or concrete still remain, in various conditions. Old cans, bottles, and pottery litter the area, giving clues to the lives of the former residents.

The mining industry left an indelible mark on the land and on the history of the Big Bend region. Prior to the discovery of quicksilver, only a few hardy, courageous people lived here. The discovery of mercury attracted hundreds of people to settle in this area, and these people built communities and improved transportation systems. Along with the ranchers, they forged the first semblance of long-term occupation in the Big Bend. Roads, stores, schools, post offices - these structures remain today to remind us of how mercury mining opened the Big Bend frontier.

Ranger Mary Kay Manning

If you visit the Mariscal Mine:



Do:

- Plan enough time. It is a two-hour drive over rough dirt roads to the mine.
- Pick up the free interpretive brochure at any park visitor center.
- Watch out for open mine shafts. Most are gated, but openings may exist.
- Leave everything as you found it. It is illegal to collect artifacts
- Take many pictures, but leave only foot prints.

Do Not:

- Climb on the mine buildings, as these are old and may be unsafe.
- Handle bricks or tailings, many contain poisonous concentrations of mercury.
- Enter any open mine entrances, as these have deep pits and unstable walls.



When visiting Big Bend, it is sometimes hard to imagine how people survived in this hot, barren landscape. However, a few hardy souls envisioned a future on the fertile floodplains of the Rio Grande. A number of small communities sprung up below the towering cliffs of the Sierra Ponce: Terlingua Abajo, La Coyota, Castolon, El Ojito and Buenos Aires. If you explore these historic areas you will step back 80-100 years ago to pioneer life in the Big Bend.

Gardens in the Desert

Ranger Angelina Yost



The Alvino House and fields

Mexican families moved into the area in the 1800s following long-established patterns of planting and tending crops, and diverting water from the river to irrigate them. Where mesquite grows thick today, picture irrigated fields of wheat, oats, corn, squash, and melons. Cipriano Hernandez sold these crops as food for the many men and mules that labored in nearby mines. In 1901, Hernandez built an adobe home near today's Castolon Ranger station. Known as the Alvino House, it is the oldest known adobe structure in the park. This ancient way of life was being repeated up and downstream in the tiny communities of El Ojito and La Coyota

In 1914, fields were cleared for alfalfa and other winter grains. Clyde Buttrill purchased the Alvino House and its surrounding properties to grow feed for his cattle ranch in the Rosillos Mountains. He hired James L. Sublett to manage his farm. Sublett was probably the first man to introduce mechanized farming into the Big Bend. Sublett moved into the abandoned Alvino house, and installed the area's first threshing machine and pump irrigation system.

By 1918, fresh vegetables could be found in some of the fields. When Buttrill sold his property, Sublett purchased land downstream, in partnership with Albert W. Dorgan. Dorgan and Sublett decided to make money providing the Terlingua mining region with fresh vegetables. Today, you can explore the ruins of their homes built on top of a hill approximately 4.5 miles west of Castolon.

Finally, picture fields of cotton waving in the wind. Wayne Cartledge, in partnership with Howard E. Perry, the owner of the Chisos Mine, purchased the Buttrill property in 1919. Cartledge proposed switching from wheat to cotton, even convincing the local farmers to switch and sell the cotton to him. The operation was large enough to purchase a steam engine to irrigate the fields. A cotton gin was also purchased so they would not have to haul and pay for the cotton to be ginned in Marathon. The steam engine and boiler are still found across the parking area from the Castolon store. The gin mill was swept downstream when the Rio Grande flooded in 1974.

Although the surrounding desert was barren and dry, at one time, two to three hundred people were making a living on the fertile floodplains of the Rio Grande near Santa Elena Canyon. However, cotton production declined dramatically after 1927 due to drought and a market price drop for cotton. Additionally, many Mexican families moved north when the US Immigration Service appeared in the Big Bend. Now, all that is left are ruins standing witness to the tenacity of these pioneers who created gardens in a desert.



Steam Engine

Ranger Programs



Join a park ranger for a guided hike, evening slide show, talk, or workshop on Big Bend's natural and cultural history. These free programs are offered daily. Consult the Interpretive Activities Schedule posted on visitor center and campground bulletin boards for more information.

Camping



Tent Camping

Camping in Big Bend National Park is on a first-come, first-served basis with **no advance reservations taken**. The National Park Service operates campgrounds at Rio Grande Village, the Chisos Basin, and Castolon. The cost is \$8.00 per night for a site.

Camping is also available at **primitive backcountry campsites** in the Chisos Mountains and along backcountry roads. High-clearance or 4-wheel drive vehicles are necessary to reach most road sites. Backcountry permits are required and can be obtained in person at park visitor centers up to 24 hours in advance.

Groups of 10 or more are eligible to reserve a spot in one of the park's **group campsites**. Reservations may be arranged up to 90 days in advance by calling (915) 477-2251.

Camping areas are often full during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, as well as during spring break in March or April.



The only showers and laundry facilities in the park are located at the Rio Grande Village store.



Basin Campsite

Lodging



The Chisos Mountains Lodge, operated by Forever Resorts Inc., is located in the Chisos Basin at 5,400 feet elevation. The lodge offers a variety of rooms and cottages, plus a gift shop and dining room. For reservations, please call (915) 477-2291 or 2292.

Banking



There are NO banking facilities in Big Bend National Park. The nearest banking/ATM services are located in Study Butte, 26 miles west of park headquarters. Most stores accept major credit cards; however, camping fees must be paid in cash. It is advisable to have small bills (\$1, \$5, \$10, \$20) since larger bills are often difficult to change.

Birdwatching



Birding is one of the main attractions of Big Bend National Park. More bird species (450) have been observed here than any other national park. Although Big Bend specialties like Colima warbler and Lucifer hummingbird have left the park to winter in warmer southern climates; the winter season is no time to put away your binoculars.

Present throughout the winter are permanent residents of the park such as greater roadrunner, cactus wren, and black-throated sparrow. Residents are also joined by species that spend only the winter here, migrating from breeding grounds farther north, including ruby-crowned kinglet, sage thrasher, and sage sparrow. Mild weather may even encourage some migrants to linger, as did a hooded warbler at Rio Grande Village two years ago. To tempt the avid birder, there is always the possibility of discovering a rare, out of range species. In December of 2000, two observant birders found a rufous-backed robin, providing a first winter record for the park.

Patience, a good field guide, and knowledge of where to look are the keys to locating the birds of Big Bend. First and foremost are the riparian areas, including the corridor of the Rio Grande (Rio Grande Village and Cottonwood), and the many desert springs (Dugout wells and Sam Nail Ranch). Other productive areas include the pinyon-juniper-oak belt (Green Gulch and lower Lost Mine trail), the moist wooded canyons of the high Chisos (Boot Canyon), the grassland/shrub community along the Chisos foothills (Blue Creek Canyon), and the low desert areas. A visit to all these key habitats will provide the best opportunities to see birds and to build that "Big Bend List."

While "listing" is a fun activity, keep in mind that many of the species that are the source of your enjoyment are members of populations in decline. Habitat destruction and degradation on both the wintering and breeding grounds are bringing many of these birds to the brink. You can help: tread softly in fragile habitats, take care not to damage water sources. Don't disturb birds with excessive noise or intrusive photography. Please share your rare observations with us. Your detailed reports become part of the record and can be an aid to researchers. Enjoy the birds of winter, and do all that you can to ensure their return.



Trailers & RV's

All park campgrounds can accommodate trailers and RVs, but vehicle lengths have a great deal to do with safely reaching the campground and finding a suitable space.

The only hookups available in Big Bend National Park are at Rio Grande Village in the 25-site, **Rio Grande Village RV Park** operated by Big Bend Resorts, Inc. Although there is no size restriction, your vehicle must be equipped with water and electrical hookups as well as a three-inch sewer connection. Register at the store. No advance reservations are taken.



Rio Grande Village Campground

Near the RV park is the 100-site **Rio Grande Village Campground** operated by the National Park Service. Although there are no hookups, water, flush toilets, and a dump station are available. Set in a large grove of cottonwoods, the campground is adjacent to the Rio Grande. Many of the sites are pull-throughs. **Generator use is limited: from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm daily.** A no-generator use area is also designated.

The 65-site **Chisos Basin Campground** is rugged and hilly. The sites are small and most are not suited to recreational vehicles or trailers. The road to the Basin is steep and curvy, especially at Panther Pass—the road's highest point. The road into the campground is a 15 percent grade. Trailers longer than 20 feet and RVs longer than 24 feet are not recommended.

Cottonwood Campground, near Castolon, offers pit toilets and potable water, but no hookups or dump station. **Cottonwood is a NO-generator campground.**

Big Bend's unpaved roads are generally unsuitable for RV's and trailers. Overnight camping in any primitive site requires a backcountry permit, obtained in person at park visitor centers up to 24 hours in advance.

Park Campgrounds

| | Elevation | Sites | Nightly Fees: | Facilities | Registration | Comments |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Chisos Basin | 5,401 ft | 65 | \$8.00* | Flush Toilets, Dump Station | Self-pay station | Surrounded by rocky cliffs. Many hiking trails nearby. |
| Cottonwood | 2,169 ft | 35 | \$8.00* | Pit Toilets, No Generators | Self-pay station | In a cottonwood grove along the river. Grassy sites. Good birding. |
| Rio Grande Village | 1,850 ft | 100 | \$8.00* | Flush Toilets, Dump Station | Self-pay station | Largest campground. Shady sites. Laundromat and showers nearby. |
| Rio Grande Village RV | 1,850 ft | 25 | \$14.50 | Full Hookups | Inquire at RGV Camper's Store | Concession-operated. Adjacent to RGV store. |

* \$4.00 with Golden Age or Golden Access Passport



Keep Big Bend Beautiful!

For your convenience, barrels for recycling cans, glass, and plastic bottles are located at the entrances of park campgrounds.

Horses

Visitors are welcome to bring and use their horses in the park. A free stock-use permit is required and may be obtained in person at any of the park's visitor centers up to 24 hours in advance of the trip.



While horses are not permitted on paved roads or road shoulders, all gravel roads are open to horses. Cross-country travel is permitted in the park, except in the Chisos Mountains where horse use

is limited to the Laguna Meadow, Southwest Rim, and Blue Creek trails. Horses are not permitted on nature trails, the Santa Elena and Boquillas Canyon Trails, or the Pine Canyon Trail, nor are they permitted in picnic areas.

Grazing within the park is not permitted, so you must bring your own feed. Stock may be watered in the Rio Grande and at springs that are not used for domestic water supply. Be prepared to haul water for your stock as springs are unreliable, especially during winter months. Check current spring conditions at a visitor center when you arrive. All horse manure must be removed from the park, or deposited at a designated location near the NPS horse corral at Panther Junction (ask a ranger for directions).

You may camp with your horses at many of the park's primitive road campsites. These are available on a first-come, first-served basis through a free backcountry use permit available at park visitor centers. These campsites are especially difficult to obtain during holiday periods, especially spring break.

Camping with horses is not permitted in any of the park's developed campgrounds. Government Springs campsite, located 3½ miles from Panther Junction, is a primitive campsite with a corral large enough for 4-8 horses. If you plan to bring horses to the park, you may reserve this campsite up to 10 weeks in advance by calling (915) 477-1158.

Hiking & Backpacking

Big Bend National Park offers over 100 miles of hiking trails. A free permit is required for all overnight trips, and can be obtained in person only up to 24 hours in advance of the trip. Because of the unreliability of desert springs, it is difficult to plan an extended backpacking trip prior to your arrival in the park. Decide how much distance you want to cover and how much time you have. Park staff can assist you with trip planning based on your needs and current trail conditions. The Panther Junction Visitor Center is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Backpacking sites in the Chisos Mountains are difficult to obtain during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, and during spring break in March and early April.

You may purchase maps and hiker's guides at park visitor centers, or you may order them in advance from the Big Bend Natural History Association by calling (915) 477-2236.



Pets are not allowed on trails or in backcountry areas. Please leave pets at home if you plan to hike.

The Southeast Rim of the Chisos Mountains, Mariscal Rim, and Casa Grande are closed during the peregrine falcon nesting season (February 1 - July 15).

Weather

Elevational differences in Big Bend mean that temperatures can be vastly different in different areas of the park. The lower areas along the Rio Grande are very hot during the summer months, while the Chisos Mountains are considerably cooler. Winter weather generally occurs between November and February, with temperatures dropping dramatically as cold fronts move through the area. Between June and October thunderstorms and flash floods may occur. Bring clothing for both warm and cool weather, as well as rain gear, when visiting Big Bend any time of the year.

See "how hot?" on page 15.

Floating the Rio Grande

The Rio Grande follows the southern boundary of Big Bend National Park for 118 miles. In this distance it has carved three major canyons, Santa Elena, Mariscal, and Boquillas, which have rapids varying in difficulty from Class I to Class IV. Between the canyons, the river is generally slower-paced. The Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River extends downstream beyond the park boundary for an additional 127 miles.

If you plan to take a river trip in Big Bend National Park, you may bring your own equipment, or you can hire a guide service. Four local companies (see page 14 for telephone listings) provide guide service in the park—you may reserve a trip by contacting them directly.



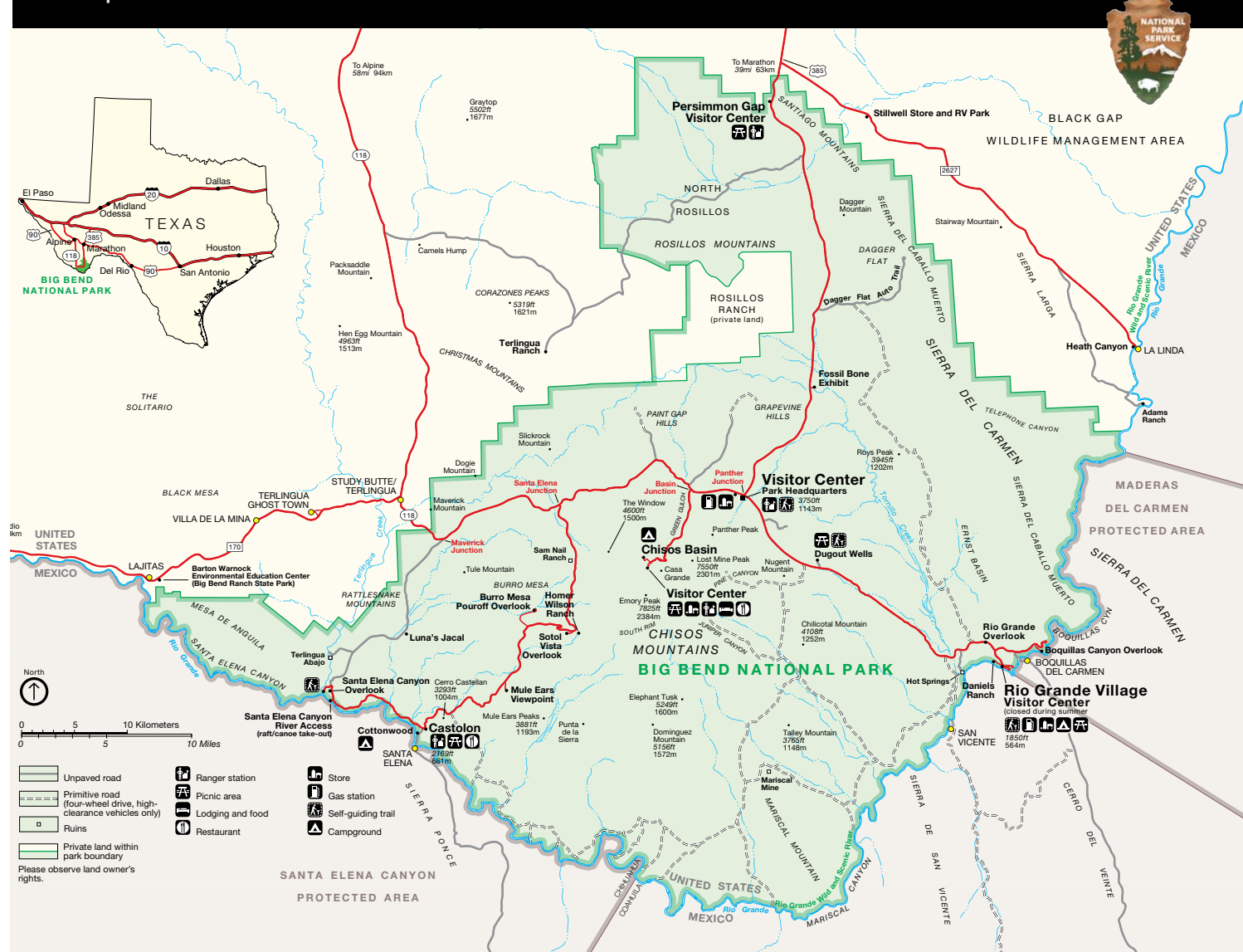
If you plan to use your own equipment, you must obtain a free permit at a park visitor center. Permits are issued up to 24 hours in advance of your trip, in person only. Stop by the Panther Junction Visitor Center for your permit and for current river condition information prior to your trip.

Permits for the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River may be obtained at the Persimmon Gap Visitor Center, when open; a self-permitting station is also located at Stillwell Store, 5 miles south on FM2627 on the way to La Linda, Mexico. Permits for floating Santa Elena Canyon may be obtained at the Barton Warnock Center in Lajitas. Only permits for Santa Elena Canyon may be written there. However, we encourage all parties to get their permits at a park visitor center when possible, to obtain the most up-to-date river information and conditions.

River guide booklets are available for purchase at park visitor centers. If you would like to order them in advance of your trip, call the Big Bend Natural History Association at (915) 477-2236 or visit their online internet bookstore at www.bigbendbookstore.org



Park Map



Local Services

No Cell Phone Service
in Big Bend

Inside The Park (915)

EMERGENCY

911

National Park Service

General Information 477-2251

Big Bend Natural History Association

Booksales & Seminars 477-2236

Visitor Centers & Ranger Stations

Castolon Ranger Station 477-2225
Chisos Basin Visitor Center 477-2264
Panther Junction Visitor Center 477-1158
Persimmon Gap Visitor Center 477-2393
Rio Grande Village Visitor Center 477-2271

Lodging

Chisos Mountains Lodge 477-2291
477-2292

Restaurants

Chisos Mountains Lodge 477-2291

Park Gasoline Service

Panther Junction (also diesel) 477-2294
Rio Grande Village 477-2293

Campground Stores

Rio Grande Village 477-2293
Chisos Basin 477-2291
Castolon 477-2222

Outside The Park (915)

Lodging

Badlands Motel, Lajitas 424-3471
Big Bend Motor Inn, Study Butte 800-848-BEND
Easter Egg Valley Motel, Study Butte 371-2254
El Dorado Motel, Terlingua 371-2111
Gage Hotel, Marathon 386-4205
Heath Canyon Ranch Inn, FM 2627 376-2235
Longhorn Ranch Hotel, Hwy. 118 371-2541
Marathon Motel, Marathon 386-4241
Terlingua Ranch Resort 371-2416

Camping

Big Bend Motor Inn, Study Butte 800-848-BEND
Big Bend Ranch State Park, Lajitas 424-3327
Big Bend Travel Park, Study Butte 371-2250
Lajitas on the Rio Grande 424-3471
Longhorn Ranch, Study Butte 371-2541
Ocotillo Mesa RV Park, Study Butte 800-729-1406
Stillwell's Trailer Camp, FM 2627 376-2244
Study Butte RV Park 371-2468
Terlingua Ranch Resort 371-2416

Gas Stations & Grocery Stores

Big Bend Motor Inn (gas, diesel) 800-848-BEND
Lajitas Trading Post (gas, supplies) 424-3234
Study Butte Store (gas/diesel/groceries) 371-2231
Stillwell Store & Station (gas) 376-2244

Medical Services

Terlingua Medics 371-2222
Lajitas Infirmary 424-3536
Big Bend Regional Medical Center, Alpine 837-3447

Banks

Quicksilver Bank & ATM, Study Butte 371-2211

Kennels

Terlingua Creek Kennels, (Oct-Apr) 371-2348

Guide Services

Big Bend Touring Society, Terlingua 371-2548
Texas Jeep Expeditions 877-839-JEEP
Texas Jeep Rentals, Terlingua 877-839-JEEP

Rio Grande Float Trip Outfitters/Rentals

Big Bend River Tours, Study Butte 800-545-4240
Desert Sports, Terlingua 888-989-6900
Rio Grande Adventures, Study Butte 800-343-1640
TX River Expeditions, Study Butte 800-839-7238

Horseback Riding

Big Bend Stables, Study Butte 800-887-4331
Lajitas Stables, Lajitas 424-3238
Spring Creek Remuda, 23 mi. south of Marathon 376-2260
Ben's Hole Creek Ranch, Terlingua 371-2954

Let Safety Be Your Constant Companion

Big Bend is unfamiliar country to most visitors yet it need not be dangerous. Whether hiking the highcountry, rafting the Rio Grande, observing wildlife, or simply driving the scenic roads of this wilderness park, let safety be your constant companion. Spend a moment reviewing these common safety concerns so that you may have an enjoyable visit.

Driving

Many accidental deaths in Big Bend result from car accidents. While driving is a great way to see the park, it can also be dangerous, particularly if you are tired or are going too fast. Drive within the speed limit, 45 mph maximum in the park, and watch for javelina, deer, and rabbits grazing along road shoulders, especially at night. Seat belts are required at all times. Remember, too, that you share the road with bicyclists and pedestrians. Some park roads, such as the road into the Chisos Mountains Basin, are steep and winding and require extra caution. The Basin Road is not recommended for RVs over 24 feet or trailers over 20 feet. Finally, always select a designated driver before drinking alcoholic beverages.

Heat

Desert heat can kill you. Carry plenty of water (at least one gallon per person, per day) and wear a hat, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, and sun screen when hiking. Springs are unreliable and often dry up for a portion of the year, despite what maps indicate. Avoid hiking during mid-day in summer; travel as wild animals do, in the early morning or late evening hours rather than during the heat of the day.

Mountain Lions

Big Bend is mountain lion country, especially the Chisos Mountains. While lion attacks are rare, three have occurred in the last 10 years. Should you encounter an aggressive mountain lion, hold your ground, wave your arms, throw stones, and shout. Never run. Keep groups together and consider hiking elsewhere with young children if you come across a special mountain lion warning sign posted at a trailhead.

Desert Wildlife

Black bears, javelinas, skunks, coyotes, and raccoons frequent Big Bend's campgrounds. Although they sometimes appear tame, all of the animals in the park are wild, and could pose a threat to your health and safety if you attempt to approach or feed them. Never feed any of Big Bend's wildlife. To prevent these creatures from becoming habituated to people, store all food, coolers, cooking utensils, and toiletries in a hard-sided vehicle, preferably in the trunk of your car. Food storage lockers are available for hikers and campers in the Chisos Mountains. Dispose of garbage properly. At the Chisos Basin Campground, throw away garbage in the special bear-proof dumpsters and trash cans provided. Remember to report all bear or lion sightings to a ranger.

Hiking

Exploring this desert and mountain country on foot requires both mental and physical preparation. Trails vary from well maintained in the Chisos to primitive and barely visible in the desert. Plan hikes within your ability. Take along a map and compass and know how to use them. Flash floods may occur following thunderstorms so avoid narrow canyons or dry washes. Stay low and avoid ridges during thunderstorms. Carry a flash-light and a first aid kit. Let someone know where you're going and when you expect to return. If you get hurt or lost, stay in one place to conserve water and energy. Signal for help; three blasts on a whistle is a well-recognized distress call. In remote areas, a large "X" marked on the ground by any means visible from the air will signify that help is needed. Carry a signal mirror. Remember to obtain a free backcountry use permit before heading out overnight.

Fire

Fire danger is always an important safety consideration in Big Bend. Wood or ground fires are not permitted in the park, and you must exercise caution in the use of gas stoves, charcoal grills, and cigarettes. Big Bend has experienced drought conditions in the past several years and some restrictions may apply to the use of these heat sources. Check with a ranger for the latest information about fire safety in the park.

Swimming

Hot weather makes the muddy Rio Grande look very inviting, but swimming is not recommended. Water borne micro-organisms and other waste materials can occur in the river and cause serious illness. The river can be hazardous, even in calm-looking water. Strong undercurrents, deep holes, and shallow areas with sharp rocks and large tree limbs are common and make the Rio Grande unsafe for swimming. If you do choose to swim, wear a life jacket and avoid alcohol.

Poisonous Animals

Venomous snakes, scorpions, spiders, and centipedes are all active during the warmer months. Inspect shoes and sleeping bags or bedding before use and always carry a flashlight at night. While snake bites are rare, they usually occur below the knee or elbow. Pay attention to where you walk and place your hands.

Big Bend truly is wild country. In fact, many people visit precisely because it is so remote and rugged. But remember, as you enjoy the splendor of this great wilderness area, to make safety a priority. By giving forethought to your actions you can have a safe, exciting, and rewarding vacation in Big Bend National Park.

Keep The Wild in Wildlife!

Javelina are wild and can be dangerous...



How Hot?

PANTHER JUNCTION
elevation 3,750 feet

| | Avg.High/Low | Avg.Rainfall" |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| January | 61/35 | .46 |
| February | 66/34 | .34 |
| March | 77/45 | .31 |
| April | 81/52 | .70 |
| May | 88/59 | 1.50 |
| June | 94/66 | 1.93 |
| July | 93/68 | 2.09 |
| August | 91/66 | 2.35 |
| September | 86/62 | 2.12 |
| October | 79/53 | 2.27 |
| November | 66/42 | .70 |
| December | 62/36 | .57 |
| yearly average: | 79/47 | 15.34" |

Temperatures in the Chisos Basin vary 5-10 degrees below these readings, while daytime temperatures along the Rio Grande average 5-10 degrees warmer.

Pet Owners

Keep your pet on a leash (or in a cage) at all times. Pets are not allowed on park trails, or anywhere off established roadways. Pets may not be left unattended in the park.

Predators such as owls, coyotes, javelina, and lions CAN and DO kill pets here. Even large dogs cannot defend themselves against such predators.

Remember, desert heat is **deadly**. Do NOT leave your pet alone in a vehicle. Pets are not allowed on trails, off roads, or on the river. The nearest kennels service is in Terlingua, 30 miles away.





National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park
PO Box 129
Big Bend, TX 79834
www.nps.gov/bibe



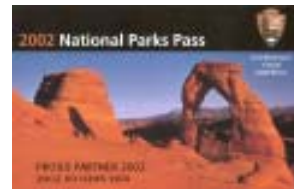
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PO Box 196
Big Bend National Park, TX 79834
www.bigbendbookstore.org

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Big Bend NP, TX
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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA...

Buy a

National Parks Pass



With the establishment of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, the United States created the world's first national park. Today, nearly 400 National Park Service sites celebrate our nation's natural and cultural heritage. From mountains to mangroves, from seashores to cliff-dwellings, the National Park Service is the steward of our resources and teller of our stories.

The **National Parks Pass** costs just \$50, and covers entrance fees at all National Park Service sites for 12 months from date of purchase.

U.S. citizens aged 62 and over are eligible for the **Golden Age Passport**. A \$10 fee will provide a lifetime of free entry into all national parks and 1/2 price camping.

Already paid your park entrance fee? You may exchange your current, valid entry receipt and apply it towards the purchase of these pass options.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Join Our Family



Please accept our invitation to join the Big Bend Natural History Association

The Association's goal is to educate the public and increase their understanding and appreciation of the Big Bend Area and what it represents in terms of our historical and natural heritage. You can be an important part of this effort when you become a member.

BBNHA was founded in 1956 to aid educational, historical, and scientific programs for the benefit of Big Bend and its visitors.

Your Benefits as a Member

- A 15% discount on items sold by BBNHA
- A 10% discount on most seminars
- A subscription to *The Big Bend Paisano*
- Current Big Bend calendar
- Discounts at many other association bookstores in visitor centers at other national park sites
- Opportunity to support scientific, educational, and historical programs in Big Bend

Past and present projects include:

- Operate book sales outlets in Big Bend National Park and Amistad National Recreation Area
- Publish trail guides and brochures and assist with the publication of *The Big Bend Paisano*
- Sponsor an on-going Seminar program
- Provide annual grants for research projects and administer grants and gifts received for the park
- Support the park's volunteer, Junior Ranger, and educational outreach programs

Yes!

Please enroll me as a member of BBNHA

ANNUAL DUES

☐ Individual (\$25) ☐ Associate (\$50)
☐ Corporate (\$100)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

☐ Individual or Family (\$250)
☐ Corporate (\$500)
☐ Benefactor (\$1,000)

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Mr./Ms./Mrs. _____

Address _____

City _____ State/ZIP _____

Make check payable to BBNHA or charge to:

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

DETACH AND MAIL TO:

BBNHA, P.O. Box 196

Big Bend National Park, Texas 79834

Telephone: (915) 477-2236

e-mail: bibe_bbnha@nps.gov